**Civil Rights in South Carolina Oral History Project**

Since reading *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd, you should have an idea of what life was like in the South after the Jim Crow laws were ending in the 1950’s and the 1960’s for African-Americans. Now, you will have an opportunity to dive deeper into these insights by interviewing someone who lived through this era, and experienced the inequalities associated with it, specifically in South Carolina. By the end of this assignment, you should be able to adequately understand some of the injustices that were prevalent through the latter part of the 20th century. You should also be able to take experiences from your interviewee and relate them to experiences in your own life. I will be grading based off of the professionalism you present, the quality of the questions, the length of the interview, and the overall content.

**Assignment:** You will be conducting a 20-30 minute interview with a local member of the African-American community that is old to enough to recall what life was like during the Civil Rights Movement in South Carolina. The interviewees will consist of either (a) a member of the local African-American community that I assign to you or (b) somebody that you already know and would like to interview that meets the above requirements (you will have to submit this to me for approval). If you choose option b, you will need to give me your interviewee’s name, age, and tell me what his or her relation is to you. For both options, you will be responsible for contacting your interviewee and setting up a place and time for the interview. The interviews will need to be recorded by video and submitted to me by email on the due date.

**Content:** Please conduct your interviews professionally. Keep in mind that these people are opening up their life to you, and they are talking to you by choice. Make sure to be respectful and to thank them for their time. Try to ask open-ended questions that your interviewees can give detailed answers to. At the beginning of the interview, make sure to get all of your interviewees basic personal information (name, age, where they are from, etc). I recommend doing the interview so that the questions are in chronological order starting with their childhood and moving up, while keeping the most of the focus on the 1950s and 1960s. You will need to make a list of questions to ask before the interview so that you are fully prepared. You may not need to use all of the questions, but it is better to have more questions than you need rather than not enough. Keep in mind that you will need to do prior research before the interview. Once you find out who you will be interviewing, try and find out as much information on them as you can beforehand without actually speaking to them. This is extremely important; you do not want to go into the interview being blindsided.

The point of this interview is to gather information on what life was like for African-Americans during the Civil Rights Movement in South Carolina. Some sample questions/topics can include:

* Tell me about what life was like in school.
* Can you tell me what a typical day in your childhood would consist of?
* Will you tell me about a specific instance where you experienced blatant injustice during this era?
* What were your hopes and dreams while you were growing up?
* What were some of the biggest obstacles you had to overcome to reach your goals?
* If you could go back and give your younger self one piece of advice during this period, what would you tell him/her?
* What were your parent’s feelings towards these inequalities? Grandparents?
* What were their feelings towards the civil rights movement?
* Can you give me a personal experience related to the inequalities in this era that stands out to you most?
* What is something that you think all students studying the civil rights movement today should know?

**Reflection Paper:** Once you have completed your paper, I would like you to write a reflection paper to tell me about your experience. I want this paper focus on you and your feelings towards the content of your interview. Some questions/topics to focus on can be:

* What is something you learned in this interview?
* Talk about an experience that you have been through that relates to something your interviewee experienced.
* What is something that was not covered in the interview about life during the civil rights movement that you would like to learn?
* Talk about something you heard in the interview that stirred up an emotional response. How did it make you feel?
* Talk about how your views of the civil rights movement and the people involved have changed since doing this interview.
* Talk about how some of the things you heard in the interview can relate to some of the passages you read in *The Secret Life of Bees.*

Paper requirements:

* 1,000 words. Typed, double spaced.
* Times New Roman 12 pt font.